

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00023 100916Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 INR-05 NSC-05 PM-03
EB-03 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 IO-03 PRS-01 DODE-00 L-01
/047 W
-----104222 100925Z /20

P R 100810Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 537
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCUE
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0023

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, MILI, DJ, EG, US
SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF SHIP VISIT FROM EGYPTIAN NAVY

REF: DJIBOUTI 0022 (NOTAL)

1. DURING COURSE CONVERSATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AHMED OSMAN, CHARGE NOTED THAT PLANNED EGYPTIAN WARSHIP VISIT TO DJIBOUTI MIGHT OCCUR BY COINCIDENCE DURING VISIT U.S. COMIDEASTFOR SHIP. THE CHARGE OBSERVED THAT THE PRESENCE OF FRENCH, EGYPTIAN AND U.S. WARSHIPS IN DJIBOUTI HARBOR AT THE SAME TIME WOULD PROVIDE A FAIRLY POWERFUL INDICATION OF OUTSIDE INTEREST IN DJIBOUTI STABILITY.

2. AFTER REFLECTING ON MATTER FOR A WHILE, IN A LATER MEETING,
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UNDERSECRETARY STATED THAT HE THOUGHT HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE SUCH

A JOINT SHOW WHICH MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF DIMINISHING THE EFFECT WHICH THE EGYPTIANS HOPED TO SECURE BY SUCH A VISIT. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD TALK TO AMB. EILTS ABOUT THE MATTER.

3. IN REFLECTING ON HIS EARLIER COMMENTS, THE CHARGE BELIEVES THAT HE MAY HAVE PERMITTED SOME MISUNDERSTANDING TO DEVELOP IN NOT INDICATING SPECIFICALLY THAT NEARLY ALL COMIDEASTFOR VISITS TO DJIBOUTI ARE ROUTING FUELING AND PROVISIONING STOPS WHICH NORMALLY LAST ONLY AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO FILL FUEL TANKS (ABOUT 4-6 HRS). IT IS TO BE ASSUMED THAT AN EGYPTIAN WARSHIP VISIT WOULD BE IN A MORE FORMAL LINE AND MIGHT LAST FOR MORE THAN ONE DAY. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO FIND OURSELVES IN THE POSITION OF BEING UNABLE TO REFUEL DURING THE STAY OF THE EGYPTIANS. THEREFORE, IF THE UNDERSECRETARY SHOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE EMBASSY IN CAIRO, IT MIGHT BE MORE PRODUCTIVE IF WE EMPHASIZED THE DIFFERING NATURE OF THE VISITS, SO THAT OUR SHIPS COULD CONTINUE TO UTILIZE THE FACILITIES OF DJIBOUTI WHATEVER THE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE. WE CAN RAISE THIS MATTER WITH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERE IN HOPES CLARIFY MATTER.

4. THE UNDERSECRETARY WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THE U.S.N. DOES OPERATE IN THIS REGION, AND INDICATED NO PROBLEMS ON THAT LEVEL.

5. FYI CAIRO: WE DO NOT KNOW HOW FAMILIAR YOU ARE WITH U.S. FLEET OPERATIONS IN THIS AREA; HOWEVER, DJIBOUTI OCCUPIES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCES A A FUELING STOP. THERE ARE FUELING STOPS PLANNED FOR THE TENTH AND FOURTEENTH JAN 78.

CLARKE

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